

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-7 and 9 as unpatentable over Tucker, U.S. Patent No. 4,974,753. The Applicants respectfully disagree because Tucker does not disclose nor make obvious all of the limitations found in these claims. In particular, Tucker does not show a universal collar that has a body having a first flange and a second flange wherein the flanges extend outward and are axially spaced for receiving a keyplate therebetween. The claimed invention contrasts with Tucker in that it is designed to bypass the keying system through the use of the flanges. In Tucker, however, keying is intended. To that end, Tucker provides a keying element that extends outwardly from its collar at the upper extremity thereof and is received in a notch formed at the top of a receiver used to support the container. Consequently, Tucker does not teach providing flanges that extend above and below the keyplate to secure the container without the use of a key, as does the claimed invention. Consequently, even if one were to reverse the elements as suggested by the Examiner, one would not arrive at the claimed invention. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 3-7 and 9.

With respect to claim 2, the Examiner has rejected this claim as obvious over Tucker in view of Smernoff, U.S. Patent No. 5,377,876. The Applicants respectfully disagree for the same reasons discussed above, namely, because Tucker does not disclose flanges adapted to receive a keyplate therebetween in order to bypass a keying system in a dispenser. Smernoff does not provide any additional teaching that would make the claimed invention obvious in this regard. Moreover, the structure that the Examiner relies on in Smernoff is not a collar used for supporting a container within a dispenser but is merely the spout for a container packaged within a box. This patent appears to be non-analogous in that it does not fall within the soap-dispensing field applicable to the Applicants' invention and is not reasonably pertinent to the problem faced by the inventor in this case. In particular, the universal collar is used in connection with a pump such that container is subjected to reciprocal motion of the pump and the vacuum created

by the withdrawal of material from the container. As discussed on page 6, lines 22-26, the vertical rib on the universal collar is provided to limit rotation of the collar resulting from deformation of the container commonly occurring during the pumping process. To that end, the vertical rib is placed on the forward side of the collar so that it interacts with the cover of the dispenser. This limitation is also found in claim 2. Smernoff discloses a box container having a spout with a cap that is removed to allow material to flow from the container and is not concerned with any container deformation caused by a pumping process. The ribs are provided to improve the gripability of the spout and are spaced at regular intervals about the circumference thereof. No teaching of placement of the vertical ribs on a forward side so that they could interact with the dispenser is shown. Consequently, the Applicants believe that claim 2 is not obvious over Tucker in view of Smernoff. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants believe that claims 2-7 and 9 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



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